## Irrigation system in Chittur-Tattamangalam.

**419. Mr. A. Eachara Menon.**—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether the main canals and the branch chals of the irrigation system situated in the Chittur-Tattamangalam town are not under the direct control of the P. W. D;

(b) whether the said drains of the town through which water is generally taken for irrigation are also not under the control of the P. W. D?

**Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.**—(a) Yes.

(b) The maintenance of the side drains in question is attended to by the Municipality.

**Mr. A. Eachara Menon.**—Can the Municipal Chairman obstruct the taking of canal water along the drains without the permission of the Government?

**Rama Varmha Tampuran.**—No.

## Death of a student of the Maharaja's College.

**420. Dr. A. G. Menon.**—Will the Government be pleased to answer the following questions regarding the death of T. Sankaran Nayar, a student of the Senior Intermediate and a boarder of Maharaja's College Hindu Hostel:—

(1) was it brought to the notice of the Government that the student referred to above expired on the very night of his arrival at Palghat from the Hostel on 15th March 1930; if so, by whom and when;

(2) when did the boy fall ill;

(3) who requisitioned the medical aid and when;

(4) is there any medical officer attached to the Hostel; if so, who was in charge at that time;

(5) was there anybody specially deputed to attend the boys in the Hostel who were ill; if so, who was attending on them on 13th March 1930 night;

(6) is it a fact that the patients could not get hot water (ചൂടുവെള്ളം) to drink on the 13th night;

(7) is the Government aware that as the result of want of provision for hot water (ചൂടുവെള്ളം) the patients had to drink cold water from the pipe;

(8) will the Government be pleased to state (a) when the Hostel was closed; (b) the number of boarders then; (c) of the boarders (i) how many Junior Intermediate; (ii) how many Senior Intermediate; (iii) how many Junior B. A.; (iv) how many Senior B. A.;

(d) how many in each section were ill on the day of the closing of the Hostel;

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(9) were any special arrangements made for the patients to continue in the Hostel; if not, why not;

(10) will the Government be pleased to state why Sankaran Nayar was allowed to leave the Hostel on Saturday morning in spite of his extreme weakness;

(11) was any information given by the authorities concerned to his grandmother Sreemathi Tharavath Ammalu Amma about the illness or about his state of health;

(12) is it a fact that the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer visited the Hostel on the 14th; if so, did he examine the boy and find him fit to undertake a journey to Palghat in this hot season;

(13) whether any responsible person was deputed to take the boy home; if so, who was asked to accompany him; if not, why nobody was deputed;

(14) will the Government be pleased to state what all assistance the authorities rendered to facilitate his journey;

(15) has the grandmother of the boy submitted a petition to the Diwan requesting for an enquiry in this matter; if so, has the Government ordered any enquiry; if so, who conducted the enquiry; if no enquiry is ordered, has the Government any intention to order an enquiry in the light of the petition received;

(16) has the attention of the Government been drawn to the articles published in the following papers, viz. :—

1. *Prabhatham*, dated 24th March 1930; (2) *The Justice*, dated 20th March 1930; (3) *The Manorama*, dated 22nd March 1930 and 26th March 1930 (Calicut paper); if so, did the Government take any action in the matter?

**Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.**—(1) Sreemathi Tharavath Ammalu Amma, grandmother of the deceased, wrote to the Government about the student's death. Her letter was received on 11th Meenam 1105.

(2) On 29th Kumbham 1105.

(3) The Superintendent of the Hindu Hostel; the same day.

(4) None attached to the Hostel but Government Doctors are called in whenever necessary. Dr. Ittoop attended on the patient.

(5) Yes. One of the cooks Ramanathan by name was specially deputed to look after the needs of the patients, in addition to their room-mates and neighbours attending on them.

(6) Not a fact.

(7) No answer necessary in view of answer to question No. (6).

(8) (a) On 2nd Meenam 1105.

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(b) Thirty.

(c) (i) 3, (ii) 8, (iii) 10, and (iv) 9.

(d) None.

(9) Yes.

(10) The boy desired to go home even on Friday noon. The Doctor attending on him examined him on Friday morning and found nothing particular to attract his special attention.

(11) No.

(12) Yes. He did not visit the residential quarters at all since at that time no one had fever in the Hostel and almost all the students had left.

(13) Yes. The boy's friend Mr. Panikkar undertook to take him home. Sankaran Nayar's room-mate, Puduval, also accompanied the boy.

(14) Oranges were purchased and given. A Thermoflask too was provided wherein the students were directed to take *canjee* or milk. The students who proposed to accompany him were given detailed instructions. They were requested to take Sankaran Nayar in the second class. At Shoranur they were advised to transport him to the other side in an easy chair. One student was always to be with Sankaran Nayar.

(15) Yes.

Yes. An enquiry is being conducted by the Director of Public Instruction.

(16) Government have perused the article in the *Prabhatam* and the *Justice*.

In view of the enquiry already ordered Government did not think that any action was separately called for on this.

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—(5) Was any statement recorded from this Ramanathan?

**Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.**—Yes, I have the statement.

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—Was he in the upper story or the ground floor in that night?

**Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.**—I do not think that statement contains that particular information.

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—So he was in the building. Can the Government say that?

**Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.**—He was in the hostel.

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—So, am I to take it that, in those disquieting days, when the students were all in a flutter and the very name of small-pox frightened them and students were afraid to go out practically, there was none in the second flat?

**Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.**—All that was explained yesterday.

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**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—Of course this is question time, and I am asking supplementary questions.

**Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.**—There were as many as 20 cases.

**President.**—I have not understood what the supplementary question is.

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—There was none in the second flat to assist these students on the night of the 13th.

**President.**—Were there persons in the second flat to attend to the students on the 13th at night?

**Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.**—As I said, there were plenty of cases in the building, and whether there was any one in this particular boy's room, I cannot say now.

**President.**—It is a definite question.

**Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.**—I have no definite information whether there were servants sleeping on the upper flat. I shall inquire and give the information.

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—Where was this Ramanathan on that particular night?

**Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.**—I shall inform you. Night means 12 hours. For a few hours he may be in some of the rooms, for some hours he may be in the kitchen; so I cannot say where he was at a particular time.

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—What is the meaning of the phrase, 'specially deputed to look after'? Does it not mean that he is to go and inquire of each and every patient?

**Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.**—When there were 20 cases of illness, one man cannot be at all places at all times.

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—Nobody expects that. Did that man go to all the rooms and inquire? Did he enquire as to the necessities of the patients? Did he do that?

**Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.**—He did it.

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—(6). You have answered 'not a fact'. How did the Government ascertain that it was not a fact? It was in the petition.

**Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.**—Government inquired into the matter, and Government was satisfied in the matter.

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—Did they examine the room mate of Sankaran Nayar and another Krishnan Nambiyar and other room-mates?

**Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.**—It is not necessary to ask Nambiyar or Panikkar to know whether there was *chukkuvellam* in the hostel.

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—For the information of the House, I can say that one of my nephews, one Govinda Menon by name,

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the occupant of the 12th room or so, was there. There was a patient close to his room, one Nambiyar. He had no *chukkuvellam*. Definitely there was no *chukkuvellam* there. That boy with another boy hastened to the tap and gave tap water to the boys.

**Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.**—What the Member said was that there was no *chukkuvellam* in a particular room. What I say is that there was *chukkuvellam* in the kitchen.

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—The boys were all in a flutter, and they were afraid to go downstairs.

**Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.**—But then there was another companion hale and sound and healthy.

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—But not bold enough to go out. They wanted even to leave Ernakulam. In the night to go downstairs at that time alone was not suited to the mentality of the students on account of the small-pox. It was in the dead of night.

**Dr. A. R. Menon.**—I think the medical men would go on the orders of the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—Small-pox is not a demon.

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—It is a contagious disease.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—Is it particularly prevalent at night?

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—Nerves are all weak in the night. Every shadow will be taken for a man, or a beast or a ghost.

**President.**—I thought everything was finished in the adjournment motion.

**Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.**—There was absolutely nothing intentional in it.

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—I do not charge you with any intention.

**Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.**—All these facts were supplied yesterday.

**Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.**—O yes. I have supplied.

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—From the answer to sub division (15) I find an enquiry is being conducted by the Director. May I know, am I to take it that it is not finished yet?

**Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.**—I said, plainly, clearly, explicitly, not finished.

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—Does the Government now think to hold an independent inquiry in view of the adjournment motion to disabuse the current impression from the public mind, because the Director who conducted the inquiry has pre-judged the whole situation and asserted that there was no neglect?

**Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.**—From enquiry so far made, the results are so and so. Does it mean pre-judged? Does it imply pre-judged?

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**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—You have formed a judgment over it.

**President.**—From enquiry so far made, there was no neglect in regard to the incident. Probably, on further enquiry, more material would be coming, in the light of which a different conclusion might have to be drawn. We must presume that, when proper materials are placed before the particular officers. the right conclusion would be drawn. He will have to change his first conclusion. Because of the fact that we have once come to a decision, you cannot correctly say that it has been prejudged. On certain facts he has come to a conclusion. As it is, more important facts are placed before him and it may lead to an opposite conclusion. We would have to consider again.

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—We expressed everything definite about *chukkuvellam*. To satisfy the public an independent enquiry on this matter might be more beneficial. That is only what I want.

**President.**—Supposing, on the completion of the enquiry, the Director himself finds that there was neglect in this particular case, that there was negligence on the part of the authorities, what is the necessity for a furthar enquiry? The enquiry has not been completed. We may come to some conclusion or other.

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—If the students were asked by the Director, they will be hesitating to give the true version. They are afraid of the educational authorities.

**President.**—That is not the mentality of the present-day students.

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—Is there any objection, Sir, to hold an independent enquiry?

**President.**—The enquiry once ordered has not been closed, and after that is closed and the report is received by the Government, Government will consider about this.

## Construction of a road from Chalakkudi to Pariyaram.

**421. Mr. C. J. Mathew.**—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether lands have been acquired for the construction of a road from Chalakkudi to Pariyaram through പള്ളിപ്പാ ഇടപാടം;

(b) if not, what is the cause of the delay;

(c) when was the paper sent to the Mukundapuram Tahsildar directing him to take steps for the acquisition of the necessary lands for the road in question ?

**Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.**—(a) No.

(b) Draft declaration called for has not been received from the Tahsildar.

(c) On 13th Makaram 1105.

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